

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8101

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL (BRAY, WILLIAM G, R-INDIANA)

REF: A. TEHRAN 7107 B. TEHRAN 7512

1. TO INFORM YOU OF THE EMBASSY'S EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM BRAY, R-INDIANA, AND FAMILY DURING THEIR AUGUST 26-SEPTEMBER 8 "PRIVATE" VISIT TO IRAN, THE CONGRESSMAN'S ACTIVITIES ARE OUTLINED BELOW.

2. DUE TO HIS AGE AND UNFAMILIARITY WITH THE PERSIAN LANGUAGE, CONGRESSMAN BRAY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY CONTROL OFFICER STANLEY T ESCUSERO DURING SIX-DAY ROAD TRIP ALONG FABLED SILK ROAD THROUGH EASTERN IRAN. CONGRESSMAN, WIFE AND SON RICHARD VISITED CITIES OF SEMNAN, SABZEZAR, NISHABOUR, MASHAD (WHERE THEY WERE ADMITTED TO HOLY SHRINE OF THE IMAM REZA), GORGAN (WHERE THEY SAW BURIED CITIES OF JORJAN AND HECATOMBPYLOS) AND BANDAR SHAH (TURKOMAN TRIBAL BAZAAR AND WORLD WAR II PORT FACILITIES FOR TRANSSHIPMENT OF MATERIAL TO RUSSIA). UPON RETURN TO TEHRAN CONGRESSMAN WAS FLOWN IN ARMISH/MAAG AIRCRAFT OVER RUINED CASTLES IN THE VALLEY OF THE ASSASSINS IN LIEU OF STRENUOUS MULE BACK TRIP TO THAT REGION. EMBASSY ARRANGED COMMERCIAL FLIGHT FOR CONGRESSMAN AND FAMILY TEHRAN-SHIRAZ AND RETURN.

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3. ON SEPTEMBER 7 CONGRESSMAN BRAY PERFORMED HIS ONLY OFFICIAL

FUNCTION WHEN HE FLEW BY ARMISH/MAAG AIRCRAFT TO VISIT KURDISH
REFUGEE CAMPS IN WEST AZARBAIJAN. (REFTEL B)

4. BRAY'S VISIT, ALTHOUGH OSTENSIBLY PRIVATE, REQUIRED MANY MAN
DAYS FROM EMBASSY OFFICERS AND LOCAL STAFF. WE BELIEVE HE LEFT
IRAN ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH HIS STAY.
HELMS

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